

From Father Kirby...

November 20, 2022

Happy Sunday, Team Grace!

Today, we conclude the liturgical year with the solemnity of Christ the King. As we end the liturgical year, and especially this portion of Ordinary Time, we place our discipleship – wherever it might be – at the feet of our Lord and King. We ask him for the grace to be better and more faithful disciples in the coming year.

With the end of the liturgical year, we move to a new cycle of Mass readings and switch from Luke's Gospel to Matthew's Gospel.

For the feast of Christ the King this year, I'll be telling the story of Saint Maximilian Kolbe during our weekend homilies. Father Kolbe is one of our priest martyrs of the Auschwitz concentration camp. The saint's heroic story is being told here as we unveil his new statue in our parish church. I encourage everyone to nurture a devotion to him and see him as a trusted older brother who can help us draw closer to the Lord Jesus.

Saint Maximilian Kolbe is the patron saint of those who have drug addictions. He was specifically selected for our parish church as a means of highlighting these type of struggles and petitioning prayers for people and families affected by them.

This coming week, our country pauses to give a day of thanks. I pray each of you is surrounded by loved ones and have a relaxing and rejuvenating Thanksgiving celebration! Please be sure to include our Thanksgiving Day Mass in your holiday plans. Our Thanksgiving Day Mass will be at 11:00 AM. *All are welcome!*

Here are some things happening at the parish this week:

In the narthex this weekend, we have free Team Grace scarves. The scarves are given as a reminder to everyone to join us for our prayer outreach at the local abortion facility next Saturday, November 26, at 8:30 AM. The facility is located at 3220 Latrobe Drive, Charlotte, NC. The parish provides a free bus to any parishioner! Please see the Front Office to reserve your seat.

Next Sunday, November 27, our 11:00 AM Mass will have a Children's Homily and a Blessing of the Baby Jesus. *All children of the parish are invited to bring the Baby Jesus from their home nativity sets to Mass for the blessing!*

Our annual Gingerbread Day for the children of the parish will follow our 11:00 AM Mass next Sunday, November 27. There will be free gingerbread houses for every child in the Parish Hall, as well as all the fun things needed to decorate them! Saint Nicholas will also visit us and be available for pictures. *All children and their parents are welcome!*

We are still within the preparation time to make (or renew) the Consecration to Jesus through Mary on the Immaculate Conception (December 8). If you missed the past week, you can still make do the preparation by doubling up on days. Preparation books are available for free from the Front Office. There will be an opportunity before all the Masses on the holy day to make the consecration.

Please note our new [calendar for the program year 2022/2023](#) is now posted on our parish website. The calendar describes all of our events and programs for the coming year.

I'd like to encourage every household of the parish to register for [FORMED](#). This is a free digital platform with family friendly content.

Some other future events I'd like to highlight:

If you are taking required minimum distributions (RMD) from your IRA, are you taking advantage of the qualified charitable distribution (QCD)? Please consider doing so and remembering your parish in your charitable giving. If you're not sure what this is, or how to give to the parish, please contact Angie Letourneau, a member of our parish Finance Council, at aletourneau@carolina.rr.com to get information on how to structure your cash contributions to get a tax break.

Our next First Friday and First Saturday are December 2-3.

The feast of the Immaculate Conception (December 8) is a Holy Day of Obligation. Our Mass schedule is Wednesday, December 7, at 4:00 PM and 5:30 PM; and, Thursday, December 8, at 9:00 AM, 11:00 AM, and 7:00 PM. Confessions will be available after all the Masses, except the 7:00 PM Mass. Please note that the 7:00 PM Mass is our parish's Anniversary Mass. We will be six years old as a parish! As such, our 7:00 evening Mass will conclude with a crowning and bagpipe, candlelight procession to Our Lady's statue at the entrance of our campus.

Be sure to read and review our revised and updated [Security/Safety Protocols for Parishioners](#) and [Church/Holy Communion Pandemic Protocols](#).

More updates next week! Oremus pro invicem (let's pray for one another)!

Email: Jeffrey.Kirby@charlestdiocese.org

Website: www.frkirby.com

Twitter: @fatherkirby